

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Developing a conservative Republican vision for public policy has always proven difficult. Yet, as Russell Kirk notes, “conservatism is the negation of ideology: it is a state of mind, a type of character, a way of looking at the civil social order.”

Democrats believe that expansive government is the cure for what ails America. Opposition to that sentiment alone should compel Republicans to work through internal differences and develop thoughtful alternatives to lead America. To foster these necessary conversations, the Republican Policy Committee offers the following principles:

- **The answer to most public policy questions is to empower Americans.** Rather than pitching multi-trillion-dollar government takeovers of entire economic sectors, the Federal Government should restore power to the individuals, communities, and businesses who have innovatively solved America’s most pressing problems for generations.
- **Liberty remains America’s chief public good.** From free speech and religious exercise to free enterprise and gun ownership, civil liberties are fragile and must be protected.
- **To secure the rights of Americans, the Constitution establishes the duties of and imposes limitations upon the Federal Government.** The Constitution clearly authorizes each branch of the Federal Government to serve distinct and defined roles to avoid the consolidation of power, maintain checks and balances, and protect the republic.
- **The rule of law must be upheld. Federal laws must either be enforced consistently or repealed altogether.** Unequal or inconsistent application of federal law erodes confidence in the legislative process, undermines respect for law enforcement, and destabilizes American society.
- **Free markets with robust competition produce prosperity and empower consumers.** Government should support economic liberty rather than interfering with increasingly burdensome programs and mandates.
- **The Federal Government must be transparent, accessible, and responsive to the American people.** Duplicative, conflicting, and opaque federal mandates and regulations must be modernized, simplified, and available to the public.
- **The consequences of reckless, unsustainable federal spending are dire.** Federal debt has become an issue of national security that requires fiscal discipline and prioritization from Congress.
- **Free and fair trade is critical to American prosperity and global standing.** Trade should be as open and tariff-free as possible with deliberate mindfulness toward strategic national objectives and economic security.

- **Taxes should be limited to support the constitutionally authorized functions of the Federal Government.** Individuals, not federal bureaucrats, are the best stewards of their hard-earned income.
- **Abundant natural resources are one of America's greatest assets and demand a strong conservation ethic.** Environmental regulations should be efficient, stable, and encourage innovation and stewardship.